

# Essay Planning Guidelines

## 1. Key Words and Terms.

Write the Essay Question of your planning piece of paper and highlight the key words and terms. Find out their definitions and jot down any other ways to say those words.

Eg. Soul: the spiritual or immaterial part of a human being.

spirit, personality, inner self, subconscious.

## 2. Decode the question.

Write the question in your own words to make sure you understand what it is asking.

## 3. Themes.

What are the main themes you will need to talk about to answer the Essay Question?

Write them down.

## 4. Brainstorm.

Brainstorm and concept map everything you can think of about the Themes and the Essay Question. You don't have to use everything you write but lots of ideas will help you.

## 5. Contention.

Now look at what you wrote for step 2 and answer the question. In other words what do you think, what will be your argument for this essay.

Write a sentence summing up what you will try to prove in the essay.

This is your Contention.

## 6. Paragraphs.

Now you need to figure out what you will write about in each paragraph.

Write P1:

P2:

P3:

P4:

Now fill in the topic for each paragraph and any notes so help you remember what you want to write.

Remember you need to try to prove your Contention, so each paragraph should help you do that. Don't include anything that doesn't help with arguing your point in relation to the question.

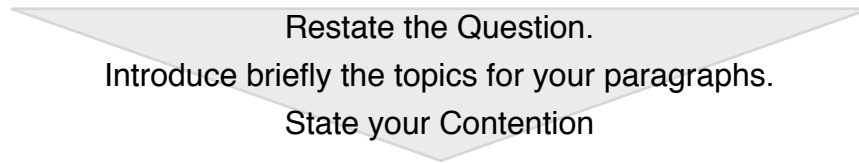
## 7. Evidence.

Which Quotes and References to the film will help you support your contention? Which paragraph topic do they fit best? Make notes.

## 8. Introduction.

Start writing your introduction.

Remember the format.



## 9. Write your paragraphs.

Remember the TEEL format.

T: Topic Sentence, introduce the topic for the paragraph.

E: Evidence, quotes and reference to the film will make your argument stronger.

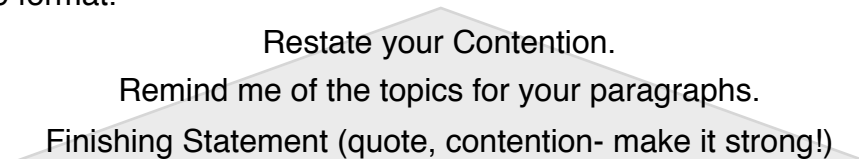
E: Explanation, explain how the evidence supports your contention.

L: Link, link your paragraph back to your Contention or to the next paragraph.

## 10: Conclusion.

This is your last chance to remind me of all the great arguments you made and how true your contention is. Remember not to introduce anything new, only go over the brilliant arguments you've already made.

Remember the format.



## \*Remember.

Do not use things like...

I believe

I think

My opinion

In my opinion

Why? Because it doesn't sound strong. You need to state everything like it is a fact.

✓ The film Remember the Titans teaches us...

✗ I think the film Remember the Titans teaches us...

See how the first one sounds stronger!